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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 APRIL 1983

Jordan

During his meeting with British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym in Amman, King Husayn stressed the need for an effective British and EEC role to halt Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, Amman television reported. In a predeparture statement Pym said the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks does not alter the "simple reality" that there is no "feasible" alternative to the Reagan plan, the television added.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak described reportage on the suspension of talks between Jordan and the PLO as "inaccurate" and asserted that "there is still hope" for reaching an agreement between King Husayn and the PLO. Cairo radio reported citing Mubarak's remarks following his return to Cairo from Pakistan. During an earlier news conference in Islamabad, Mubarak expressed Egypt's "readiness" to offer aid to the Afghan refugees, according to MENA. He noted that it is "incumbent" upon the Islamic states to help "our brothers whose country was invaded."

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Activities — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sweden for talks with Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme on the recent Palestinian-Jordanian discussions, AFP announced.

PLO Policy — Noting that the Palestinians reject "capitulatory" solutions, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared that there is not a single Palestinian nationalist who accepts the Reagan plan, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported citing Khalaf's remarks during an Abu Dhabi news conference. Meanwhile, in an interview with the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, PNC Speaker Khalid Al-Fahum affirmed that relations with Jordan will continue and described Jordan's expression of support for the PLO as "positive."

In another development, following a meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, the DFLP declared that it "sees no reason" for convening an Arab summit "under the current circumstances," according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Summit — Morocco insists on holding the emergency Arab summit conference in April and will shortly dispatch envoys to Amman and Damascus to persuade Jordan and Syria to attend, according to Moroccan sources cited by WAKH. Moroccan sources also told the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA that King

Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat will hold a bilateral summit in Morocco prior to the summit itself, INA reported. Meanwhile, asked by Radio Monte Carlo if Libya will attend the summit, Libyan Secretary for Foreign Liaison 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi said his country will wait to see if there is one.

Saudi-PDRY Contacts — Pdry Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in Jidda, SPA noted. In a statement reported by SPA, Ad-Dali indicated that the talks would focus on bilateral relations and on wider Arab issues, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations — After participating in the 12 April tripartite negotiations in Netanya, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib met with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for further talks on Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio said Habib would meet Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 13 April in an attempt to resolve outstanding disputes, particularly the future of Major Sa'd Haddad. Earlier, Maj Haddad called on the U.S. and Lebanese Governments to hold direct talks with him about his position in southern Lebanon, according to remarks broadcast by the radio. The Israeli delegation spokesman in Netanya announced in a statement broadcast by the radio that the 12 April talks were "constructive and extremely intensive."

Salim in Jordan — Foreign Minister Elie Salim gave King Husayn a message from President Amin al-Jumayyil concerning the current Arab situation and recent developments in the Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. talks, Amman radio reported.

Security Situation — Two IDF soldiers were killed in an ambush north of Sidon, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — Iranian forces repulsed and crushed a "fierce" Iraqi armored counteroffensive west of 'Eyn Khosh, Tehran radio reported early on 13 April. Earlier, Iranian and Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Tehran and Baghdad radios respectively confirmed that fighting continued in the Faqih-Maysan border area throughout 12 April. According to the Iraqi communique, the Iraqi Air Force again struck hard at Iranian targets. In another development an Iraqi military spokesman threatened that unless Iran stops shelling Iraqi civilian areas Iraq will mount a "stronger and fiercer" reply. Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported. IRNA subsequently reported that the Iraqis intend to resume missile attacks against Iranian border towns. Earlier, Baghdad radio's Persian service warned Iranian soldiers that they face destruction at the front by modern weapons that Iraq has not previously used because of "humanitarian and ethical reasons."

Diplomacy, Comment — Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials briefed ambassadors of Arab countries and of the five permanent UN Security Council member states on the military situation, INA reported. The Iraqi officials called on the Security Council to condemn Iranian "aggression" and implement resolutions to stop the war. Meanwhile, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Majlis that since Iran has concluded that neither Iraq nor its supporters are ready to pay the "rightful dues" to Iran, the latter is obliged to continue "the path that we have initiated and the defense that is our right."

Iraq on Oil Slick — Iraq holds Iran "fully responsible" for the problem caused by the oil slick leaking from Nowruz oilfield and reaffirms that arrangements for a partial cease-fire in the affected area must come within a political and military framework that will prevent Iran from exploiting the situation in order to harm Iraq and tip the balance of power in its favor, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz declared in a statement carried by INA. The Iranians behaved "irresponsibly" at recent meetings of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and falsely tried to depict the problem as purely technical, 'Aziz contended.

Syrian-Iranian Relations

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Damascus radio reported. Velayati had announced earlier in Tehran that he would inform Syrian officials of Iran's recent successes in the war with Iraq, according to IRNA.

Afghanistan

Economic Difficulties — At a Finance Ministry seminar Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshmand admitted that the country's financial situation has been "seriously affected" by the activities of "counterrevolutionary bands" and their foreign supporters, according to an 11 April BAKHTAR report. Half the country's schools and hospitals have been destroyed, the transportation system is in disarray, 75 percent of the communication lines are out of action, and urgent repair work is needed on power and water supplies, the prime minister said.

Geneva Talks — UN Deputy Secretary General Diego Cordovez held talks with a Soviet official in Geneva concerning the problem of Afghan refugees, according to AFP. Soviet sources in Geneva indicated that the "indirect" talks concentrated solely on the refugee question as a way of beginning secret contacts with the Afghan resistance.

Reportage on Geneva Talks on Afghanistan

Perez de Cuellar Comments

NC121811 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Copenhagen, Apr 12 (AFP)—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said here today that he is "reasonably satisfied" with the progress made so far at the two-week-old [as received] Geneva talks on resolving the Afghanistan conflict.

Mr Perez de Cuellar, in Denmark on the second leg of a five-nation Scandinavian tour, told a press conference that he expects Pakistan and Afghanistan to reach agreement on a framework for further discussions and soon to begin addressing the concrete issues.

The secretary general expressed his full confidence in special UN representative Diego Cordovez, who is acting as intermediary between Afghan and Pakistani delegations.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Soviet Union have expressed complete support for the UN mediation effort, he said. Progress towards a settlement can be expected to speed up after the second round of Geneva talks that began Monday, he added.

Cordovez Meets With Delegations

NC121836 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Geneva, April 12 (AFP)—United Nations Deputy Secretary General Diego Cordovez today met separately, for the second day, with Pakistani and Afghan delegations on the future of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Mr Cordovez also met, according to a reliable source, with a representative of the Soviet Union, whose role in the talks was not stipulated.

Moscow is considered to have lent its approval to the refugee negotiations since UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was encouraged by his talks there on the subject last March.

Soviet sources here today said the "indirect" talks concentrated solely on the refugee question in order to begin contacts—without saying so and without losing face—with the (Afghan) resistance.

The association of Afghans in Europe, however, said the refugee question was secondary. It said the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was "the only prerequisite to a negotiation whose premise is acceptable only if all the belligerents participate."

Iran, which claims to be harboring some 1.5 million Afghan refugees, boycotted today's negotiations, as it has since they began last June.

Karmal Addresses Kabul Construction Workers

LD122217 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, this morning toured various parts of the Kabul house construction plant and spoke with the workers and staff in an atmosphere of revolutionary and worker sincerity.

Babrak Karmal took part in a meeting held by the workers. Speaking to the workers at this gathering, Babrak Karmal said: [Begin recording] Comrades, dear friends, heroic workers of Kabul City house construction plant: It is a great pleasure to be among the proud workers of the house construction plant. I am honored to meet you toiling, patriotic, courageous, brave, and heroic workers. [applause]

Every Afghan citizen over 16 can become a member of the National Fatherland Front. This whole system, the system of social organizations and the Front, carries out revolutionary, social, economic, political, state, administrative, and cultural tasks under the leadership of the party of the working class and all toilers of Afghanistan, that is, the proud PDPA. [applause] I assure you, I bring to your attention that today our party has approximately 90,000 members. This is a great victory as regards the growth and development of our party. The most important thing for the party is that it has developed qualitatively, which is vital, and that in the last 6 months some 47-48 percent and in some cases 50 percent of workers and toiling peasants have obtained party membership. [sentence as received] This is a great victory for the party of the young working class of Afghanistan whose party, step by step, day by day is attaining true workers' essence.

Comrades and friends, we confess that there are yet great problems and big difficulties to be overcome. With the will of the people, the unity and consensus of the toilers of Afghanistan, relying on the young working class of Afghanistan and the Afghan toilers, pursuing a principled policy, we have firm faith that we will overcome all these problems and difficulties. [applause]

Our path and our revolution are just. It is a path founded on social justice and on the basis of eliminating man's exploitation of man. Thus the victory of our revolution is inevitable. No satanic force in the world—not great imperialist powers, headed by U.S. imperialism, not Chinese chauvinism and regional reaction, Pakistani militarist reaction, Iranian reaction and not international reaction—will ever be able to resist the Afghan revolution. So they are condemned to bow their heads in surrender to the Afghan people, the Afghan revolution, and the independence and freedom of Afghanistan.

Just as internal counterrevolutionaries, reactionary forces, oppressors, and exploiters have themselves satanic international counterrevolutionary friends, are supported by reaction, train highway robbers and murderers outside the country in Pakistan, arm them and are instructed by the United States and Chinese and other militarists, so revolutionary Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan have great friends in the world: socialist

countries, workers movements, democratic and national and social liberation forces throughout the world, headed by the sincere and true friend of Afghanistan, the powerful guardian of peace, progress, and freedom, the Soviet Union, which is on our side. Thus no international power and reaction will be able to resist our revolution, people, country and our homeland. [applause]

It is true that the Soviet aid to Afghanistan began with the October Revolution, whose founder is the great Lenin. Great aid has been given to Afghanistan in every area: from the defense of our independence to economy, technology, culture, education, construction, personnel, and agriculture. Contingents even take part in voluntary work in our country, in particular in your plant in whose success our Soviet friends play a valuable and important role.

Comrades, with complete loyalty to the revolution, the national democratic revolution, your comrades are accomplishing their tasks. You are not only ahead in your production, but your comrades have fought heroically in armed defense of your plant. Praise to the souls of the young workers of our plant who have been martyred on the path of revolution. Today we pay respect to their photographs. In this regard, it is our duty to remember the immortal efforts of the martyred comrades of our plant. We will never and must not forget them. [end recording]

SPA Reports Afghan Insurgent Successes

LD122101 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 gmt 12 apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (SPA)—About one hundred military vehicles including tanks and armoured personnel carriers were destroyed and scores of Soviet-Afghani troops were killed north of Kabul in what was described as the heaviest engagements this spring, Western diplomatic and resistance sources said here today.

On April 1, a large Soviet-Afghan Government military convoy was successfully ambushed by mujahideen south of the famous Panjsher valley, the sources said.

In another engagement in (Shomali) areas, north of Kabul, five armored personnel carriers were destroyed on April 3 when Afghan mujahideen struck at a Soviet force in the vicinity of (Opiani) near Parvaneh Province capital, Charikar, Western diplomatic sources said.

An armoured personnel carrier was destroyed in Ghazni city by resistance landmines on April 1, the sources added.

Five other personnel carriers were destroyed north of Kabul by mujahideen on April 2, the sources said.

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA

—Kabul, April 11. BAKHTAR—The delegation of the DRA headed by Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal, minister of agriculture and land reforms, returned home from Bulgaria. The Afghan delegation participated at the third session of the joint commission on economic, technical and scientific cooperation between Afghanistan and Bulgaria. Lakanwal said to BIA correspondent that the talks held on the use of Bulgarian credit amounting to 31.3 million dollars for financing the Afghan projects were useful and both sides have agreed on future cooperation as well. The Afghan delegation signed the protocol of the third session of the joint commission on economic, technical and scientific cooperation between Afghanistan and Bulgaria. The fourth session of the commission is scheduled to be held in Kabul in the first half of 1984. [Text][Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 13 Apr 83 LD]

Gandhi on Akalis, Assam, State Relations

*BK130936 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
13 Apr 83*

[Text] The prime minister has stressed the need for maintaining the country's unity and integrity. She was addressing an impromptu meeting after a surprise visit to the walled city of Delhi. She said the government has accepted all the reasonable demands of the Akalis and some are under consideration. Certain demands concern other states and the center has to listen to their views also.

About Assam, Mrs Gandhi said the government is keen to preserve the culture and heritage of the Assamese people. All possible steps have been taken to meet the demands of the agitators there and at the same time the government has to adopt a humanitarian approach to the foreign nationals problem.

Mrs Gandhi stressed the need of giving a healing touch to the scars of violence in Assam, where lots of people have suffered.

On center-state relations, the prime minister said the center has done its best to help the states. There should be a strong center as well as strong states.

Home Minister Discusses Akalis, Assam Situation

*BK121654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 Apr 83*

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, told the Lok Sabha today that the government is prepared to resume talks with the Akalis provided they send their top leaders who can speak with authority and clinch the issue. He said it was unfortunate that the Akali leaders have moved out of the talks when a settlement was about to be reached. The government has already accepted their religious demands. The process of consulting Gurdwaras is on and all Gurdwaras willing to come under the Gurdwara act will be covered by [it].

The minister was replying to a 15-hour debate on the demands for grants for his ministry, which were later accepted by the house.

The minister said that relay of Sabadh Kirtan [Sikh religious recitation] from the Golden Temple has been allowed for 2 hours daily, but there is a demand for more time. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has been asked to go into the question. The government is also thinking of taking up the water dispute.

About Assam, the home minister said paramilitary forces will not be called back until complete normalcy is restored in the state. All-out efforts have been made in this regard and the state chief minister is personally looking after the relief work. Enough security arrangements have been made for the safe return of refugees to Assam. Of 329,000 people who have taken shelter in refugee camps, more than 140,000 have already returned. He said the entire expenses incurred by the West Bengal Government on such people will be borne by the center. He dismissed the opposition demand for the dissolution of the Assam assembly as its representatives have been duly elected by the people.

Mr Sethi said that the process of detection and deportation of foreigners will be taken up from the year 1971 onward. Special tribunals will be appointed for this purpose and there will be one such tribunal in every assembly constituency. He said comprehensive guidelines will be issued to them to avoid arbitrary decision.

Referring to the demand for resumption of talks on foreigners issue, he said whenever these are resumed, the government will have to involve all the parties concerned, including the students union and the Gana Sangram Parishad [action council of the people]. Expressing concern at the recurrence of communal violence in some parts of the country, the minister said state governments are taking steps to streamline their administrative machinery. He said many states have agreed to set up special courts to try those involved in communal violence. The home minister said five special peacekeeping battalions of the central reserve police service have been raised in addition to the three existing battalions. He said the Finance Ministry has been approached for funds for raising five more such battalions. The national integration council, he said, would be activated and further broadbased so that it is made more representative.

About the welfare of the schedule castes and tribes, he said a twin strategy has been adopted, that is, providing protection to them against exploitation and positive action for their socioeconomic growth. The sixth plan envisages a massive expenditure of 60 billion rupees for bringing these people above the poverty line.

Pakistan Gives Assurances of Noninterference

*BK121724 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Apr 83*

[Text] Pakistan has assured India that there is no intention on her part to interfere in India's internal affairs. This assurance was given by the Pakistan Foreign Office when the Indian Embassy in Islamabad sought an authenticated text of speech of President Ziaul Haq which was reported in the Pakistani newspapers on the 29th of last month. The reports, attributed to Pakistan's official news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoted President Zia advising Muslims of Pakistan not to identify themselves with the cities of a country where about 100 million people were so insecure as to be afraid of disclosing their Muslim identity.

The Pakistan Foreign Office informed the Indian Embassy that while the text of President Zia's speech was not available they found that the reports in the Pakistani press had quoted President Zia out of context. The Pakistan Foreign Office said that President Zia had in fact asked the Muslims to shun labels like Shia, Sunni, Barelwi, and Deobandi. President Zia said that these labels were not even used in India.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India has taken note of what the Pakistan Foreign Office had informed us. (We have) not sought any further clarification, he added.

Firearms Reported Stolen From Rajasthan Armory

BK121457 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Over 120 firearms were stolen from the armory of the district collectorate of Sriganganagar in Rajasthan last night. According to police sources, the theft was noticed this morning. Senior police officials have rushed to Sriganganagar for investigation. According to police sources, the hand of extremists in the theft cannot be ruled out.

Papers Suspect Sikh Party Behind Arms Thefts

BK130710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 13 Apr 83

[By Joel Henai]

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—Punjab police are on a general alert after the theft of 127 weapons by a commando which the Indian press suspects of belonging to the Sikh autonomist party Akali. The commando, still unidentified today, yesterday broke into the premises of the Sriganganagar District court in Rajasthan, the state next to Punjab, and carried off arms seized by the police and kept as evidence for the court. The arms were locally made double-barreled shotguns, revolvers and one or two semi-automatic rifles.

On April 7, an unidentified commando carried off 14 Sten machine guns, 28 Enfield .303 rifles and 360 cartridges in the armoury of a home guard unit at Ferozepore in Punjab.

Indian papers stressed that the arms thefts came at a time when the Akali Party has announced the training of 100,000 volunteers who have decided to give their lives for the autonomy of the Punjab, the wheat-granary of northern India, strategically placed on the Indo-Pakistan frontier.

The first 10,000 volunteers for death will be sworn in tomorrow, the Sikh new year's day, during a religious ceremony organised in the Golden Temple at Amritsar, their religious capital.

Several commentators noted today that the central government can legally arrest the Sikh leaders because it is illegal to raise a private army. They say that the appeal for volunteers to die was against the law.

However, the federal government, through the Interior Minister P.C. Sethi, has once again invited the Akali officials to resume the negotiations which they unilaterally broke off in January.

The central government is ready to examine favourably the Sikhs' religious demands to propagate their faith. However it is not prepared to concede internal autonomy to the Punjab for fear of encouraging other demands and threatening federal unity.

The opposition parties on both right and left agree with the government on this question.

Sabotage Suspected in Bihar Power Disruption

BK130933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] In Bihar power supply in the state capital, Patna, remained partially disrupted since yesterday due to the alleged sabotage of 132-kw transmission line near Bela in Gaya District. According to the chairman of the state electricity board, Mr N. Nagamani, the repair on the transmission line has been taken up on a war footing and the power supply has been partially restored. He warned that severe action will be taken against those responsible for the breakdown.

The strike by a section of the powermen in the state entered the 6th day today.

IRNA Reports Saddam Planning Missile Attacks*GF121717 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 12 Apr 83*

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—IRNA has learnt through informed military sources that the Iraqi Ba'thist Army is intending to carry out missile attacks against the Iranian border towns in future days as a measure to compensate for its recent defeats during the first stage of the massive Wal Fajr offensive.

By disclosing this news, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY stresses the fact that the civilian areas, with their innocent inhabitants are definitely considered non-military targets which have nonetheless been singled out for such inhumane assaults by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

It should be noted that independent news sources have reported that the shipments of arms to Iraq have recently been resumed by the Soviets.

Saddam's regime has always resorted to such savage attacks upon the border towns particularly Dezful utilising this same military hardware.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,280*LD121736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 83*

[Communique No 1,280 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the victorious operations in the first stage of the Wal Fajr offensive which have been brought to the notice of the faithful and Muslim Iranian nation in joint communiques, we hereby inform them about the situation on the fronts of the imposed war.

Fighting continued yesterday in all the western parts of the country in the form of exchanges of sporadic fire. The fighters of Islam opened artillery fire on enemy positions and units on all fronts, preventing them from undertaking any movements, inflicting casualties on them, and silencing their artillery fire. Some of the mercenary forces of Saddam tried to launch an offensive on one of the western fronts of the country, but the victorious forces of Islam crushed their futile efforts, inflicting casualties on them. They also destroyed an ammunition dump, a tank, and a number of light and heavy weapons bunkers of the Iraqi forces and killed their crews.

On the Musian front, the heroic forces of the Gendarmerie infiltrated behind the defensive positions of the mercenary forces of Saddam, killing 45 Iraqis and wounding more than 70. A large number of the foxholes and trenches of the mercenaries of Saddam were destroyed.

In the Wal Fajr operational zone, the powerful and victorious forces of Islam engaged in intense fighting against the mercenaries of Saddam. On other southern fronts, our powerful forces opened fire on the blasphemous forces of Saddam, thus inhibiting their movements. While defending the area under their control, they opened fire on the Iraqi forces and continued sending patrols

out to inflict casualties on them.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the heroic forces of the Navy and the Gendarmerie opened fire on the positions and fortifications of the aggressive forces of Saddam on the other side of the Arvand Rud, destroying 11 machinegun positions and ammunition dumps and observation posts of the Iraqi forces. They also killed a number of enemy personnel and stopped all their movements.

Abadan yesterday came under fire from the criminal forces of Saddam. As a result, one person was wounded and five houses were destroyed. Yesterday the heroic Air Force personnel and the ever-vigilant antiaircraft units repulsed planes of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces which violated the southern and western borders of the country. In the Wal Fajr operational area, the heroic personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran neutralized the aerial activities of the mercenaries of Saddam.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Islamic Forces Repulse 19th Iraqi Counterattack*GF130630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 83*

[Text] According to the latest reports received from the Wal Fajr operational theater, the 19th and fiercest enemy counterattack occurred during the past 24 hours. At 1700, the enemy deployed a tank battalion in the (Hamring) mountain range in the western sector of 'Eyn-e Khosh in an attempt to recapture liberated areas. This surge was decisively repulsed and crushed, and the Islamic warriors, while destroying a number of the enemy's tanks, took tens of the deceived Iraqis as prisoners and began their transfer and evacuation to rear areas of the battlefield, an operation which has been going on since yesterday.

The enemy's fierce counterattack last evening in the region of the (Hamring) mountain range in the western sector of 'Eyn-e Khosh was crushed by inflicting heavy casualties on the Iraqi mercenaries.

The reports also indicated that due to the constant, coordinated, and attentive fire of the artillery units of the Islamic warriors, the enemy's heavy fire in support of its infantry was silenced and several enemy tanks were destroyed, the smoke of which could be seen for some time.

According to military observers, this offensive counterattack was one of the heaviest assaults of the enemy's 19 counterattacks launched on 11-12 April. To achieve its goal of reoccupying Iranian territory, the enemy put into action most of its forces which have been decisively crushed and the enemy has suffered heavy casualties.

Iran Will 'Revenge' Nowruz Oil Field Destruction

*LD130938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0815 GMT 13 Apr 83*

[Text] In its military communique No 1,016, the Zionist, Ba'athist Iraqi regime blatantly announced that the regime's missile forces had set fire to the Iranian oil wells in the Nowruz oil field. Yes, this is an admission by a regime facing death to a crime that this time has exposed its malevolent nature throughout the Persian Gulf region and to all the Arabs who today have to pay many dollars for a single sip of water. Islamic Iran will of course soon take its revenge for the destruction of these wells and for other crimes perpetrated by Saddam.

However, now that all nations of the region are clearly and openly witnessing with their own eyes the outcome of the Saddamist crimes, the United States should know that it is now confronting all the peoples of the region. All the peoples in the region know that the Saddam regime, despite its undertaking to protect the environment against oil pollution in 1978 and with full knowledge of the outcome of its criminal deed, has made a target of the Nowruz oil wells using missiles given to it by the United States and, apart from wasting the oil resources of Islamic Iran, has caused great anxiety to the regional nations with regard to obtaining drinking water, that most essential and vital substance.

The depth of the Saddamist crime, arising out of the demented acts of the last days of the life of one condemned to death, despite the Islamic Republic of Iran's immense efforts to stop the leakage of oil and to clean up the region, may be seen in the fact that the Saddamist regime has aimed its missiles in this direction, and as a result, by destroying the security of cleaning up operations, is now threatening with death millions of people who are thirsty in the Persian Gulf littoral.

However, all the peoples of the region now know this messenger of death and thus give the combatants of the Islamic Armed Forces the right, in order to destroy this germ of corruption and emasculation, to travel the road to Baghdad as soon as possible and to punish all the criminals of the Michel 'Aflaq party for 31 months of usurpations, crimes, and murders.

Iraqis Launch 'Missile Attack' Against Oil Well

LD131031 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 13 (IRNA)—In an attack Tuesday night at 3:50 local time, 6 Iraqi gun boats which were supported by two Iraqi helicopters, launched a missile attack against another Iranian oil well in the Persian Gulf. One of the Iraqi gun boats was hit by the Iranian naval forces, and it is not clear yet whether another oil slick has occurred in this missile attack by the Iraqi aggressors.

The rest of the Iraqi gun boats fled the region for the Al-Bakr and Ummayeh oil docks in Iraq. The region hit by Iraq is purely non-military and belonging to oil installations.

The attack took place while the Kuwait convention's second session is about to convene in order to seek ways for stopping the oil slick in the Persian Gulf due to the Iraqi bombing of the

Iranian Nowruz oil well, hit by Iraqi forces on March 1, 1983.

The Iraqi aggressor regime aims at intensifying the hardships inflicted on the Persian Gulf countries by these oil slicks.

The naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are presently searching the region's waters for the remnants of the Iraqi gun boat and the bodies of its crew.

Political observers believe that Saddam's crumbling regime, plagued by a plethora of economic problems, tries to accost more aid from the Persian Gulf countries and through such acts, it aims at pressing the rulers of the Persian Gulf countries.

Oil Ministry Condemns Attacks

LD131128 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—The Oil Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement Wednesday condemning the Iraqi missile attack against an oil installation, near the already leaking Nowruz oil field, and said it was an act of retaliation against the losses of the Iraqi forces in the battlefronts.

"In order to retaliate for its losses in the fronts, and at a time when the hard efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the regional countries for finding a solution to the pollution of the Persian Gulf continues...the Iraqi mercenary regime again launched a missile attack against the oil installations near the Nowruz oil fields Tuesday night...and once more acted against the regulations of the Kuwait convention and against Islamic and humanitarian principles."

The attack was launched by six Iraqi gun boats late Tuesday night, one of which was hit and destroyed by the Iranian Navy, but there is still no report on the extent of damage.

The statement said that the Islamic Republic hoped that the justice-seeking people of the world, and especially the Arab Muslims of the region, would become aware of the true nature of the Iraqi regime and its empty (?claims)

'Violent Clashes' Kill, Wound 500 Iraqis 13 April

*LD131215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 13 Apr 83*

[Text] The latest reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, state that in continuing the first phase of the Wal Fajr operations violent clashes took place between Islam's mighty combatants and the enemy forces in the region north of Faqih this morning, during which Islam's forces inflicted heavy blows on the aggressor forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

According to these reports, at least 500 men of the forces of the defeated enemy were either killed or wounded during these clashes, and several tanks and armored personnel carriers and a number of enemy vehicles were set on fire and destroyed. The report also says that our victorious combatants, stabilizing and

consolidating their new positions in the Wal Fajr operational theater, continued to mop up the liberated regions.

On the other hand, the shaky forces of the Baghdad regime, after the heavy blows inflicted on them by Islam's heroes, assembled their scattered and disorganized forces this morning and embarked on desperate attempts to regain some of the liberated territories. These were met however with stubborn resistance from Islam's forces, and after suffering appreciable losses and casualties, they were forced to retreat.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Security Officials

LDI 21928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1630 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The responsible official in charge of the national security guards [mas'ul herasat-e koll-e keshyar], accompanied by officials in charge of security in ministries and government

organizations, this afternoon met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The official in charge of the national security guards submitted a report about the activities of that unit in the past year.

Then, referring to intelligence activities and their role in safeguarding the gains of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly emphasized the legality of the enforcement of security and its importance as one of the fundamental bulwarks of the revolution. He said: Officials should pay attention to attracting sympathetic persons to security work—which is a precise and subtle job—with due attention paid to religious principles, in order to safeguard the main assets of the revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also emphasized that officials should act with truthfulness, faithfulness, steadfastness, and trustworthiness. He said: You are in charge of a trust from the people and should safeguard this trust.